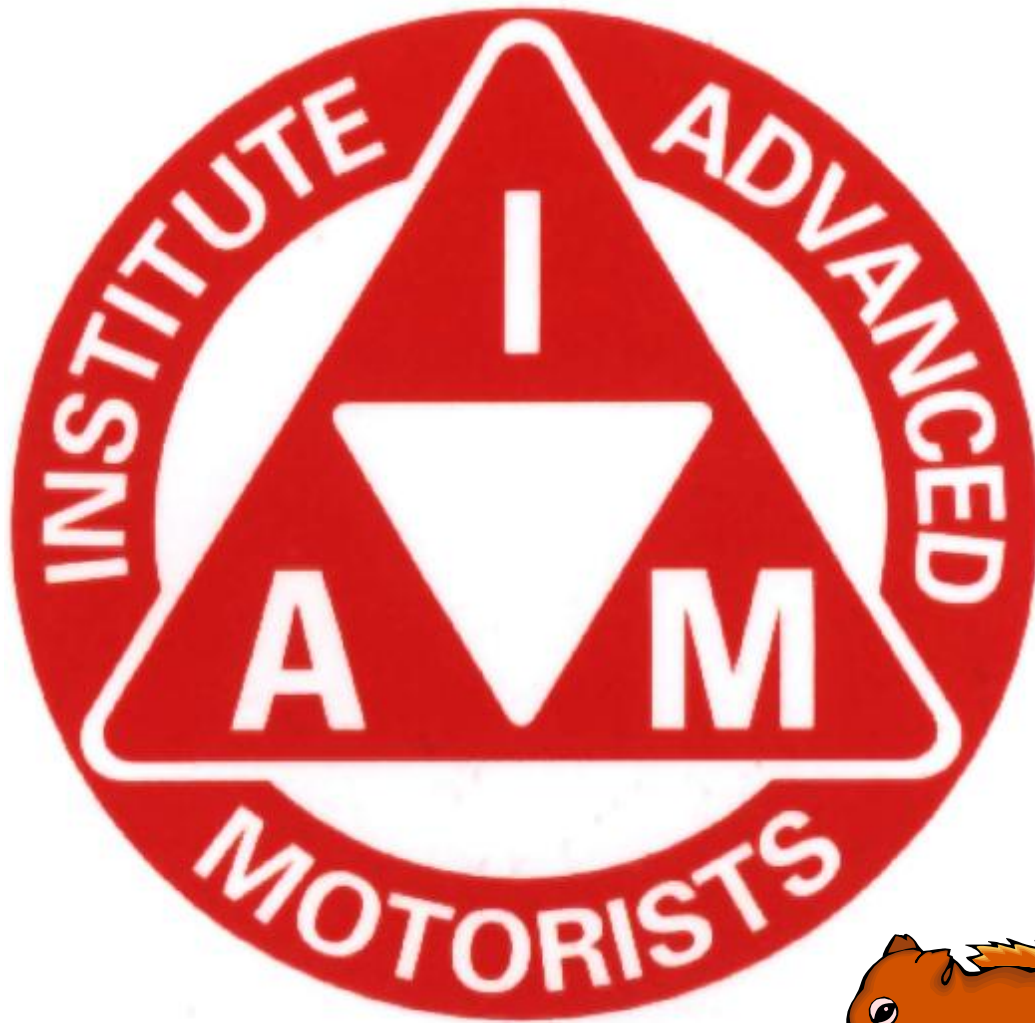







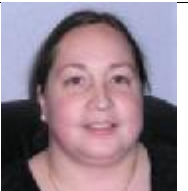



Wigan Group Newsletter



Issue 293 Autumn 2004

Wigan Advanced Motorists

**Group Contact number
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No photo yet	Committee Tony Rigby		

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. Deadline for contributions is the last Tuesday in the month Send any contributions to the group E-mail address at:
Wigan5019@Hotmail.com

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor. They are not necessarily those of the Group, it's Officers or the Institute
 Previous copies are available to download at www.iam.org.uk/groups/wigan
 Wigan Advanced Motorists is a registered charity, No 518387



Welcome to your newsletter

Its been a little time since the last newsletter, I hope you haven't been too frustrated waiting. I am now back at work again and things have been hectic.

Your committee have decided, because we don't have a newsletter editor, we will simplify things by just bringing out four issues each year. Between the newsletter an events update sheet will be circulated keeping you aware of things which are planned.

The good news is that this will also keep our running costs down so there will not be an increase in subscription charges for next year.

Mike

Additional Newsletter Format

The newsletter is now being published electronically in PDF format for those members preferring to receive it this way (in our increasingly paperless society).

If you wish to be included please E-mail your address to wigan5019@hotmail.com indicating if you also wish to continue receiving a 'hard' copy.

Quick crossword clue from Les:

Flightless Bird from Iceland ? 5,5

(answer on back page !)

SOCIAL EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated Wigan Group hold a social event every second Tuesday, starting at 8pm at the Priory Wood Hotel.

Leave the M6 at Junction 26 (M58) and at the Orrell exit turn left. Priory Wood is on your right as you cross over the motorway.

Planned Meetings

Every Sunday at the Priory Wood, Orrell. Meeting in the car park at 09:30 (Bikes) and 10:00 (Cars) for Associates and anyone interested in joining. All are welcome to join us at 12:00 in the pub for a natter.



Mid week Bike runs leaving the Priory Wood at 19:00 on a Wednesday have now recommenced. Other

Bike and Car mid-week runs are available on request. See Martin Duckworth or Les Stretton

Imminent Diary Dates

Tuesday 14th December

Amir's Annual Christmas Quiz

Starting at 08:00 prompt at the Priory Wood, bring a team of four or join when you arrive.

All Welcome

For a full list of diary dates please see the inside back page of this Newsletter.

Have Pride in Our Institute

Ever been asked, "Why should I join the IAM?", and struggled to give a concise answer? Well the following extract off the IAM Website may help:

The Institute of Advanced Motorists aims to raise the standard of driving by increasing the skill and competence of drivers. The result of a Transport Research Laboratory Report showed that Advanced Motorists have between a 50% and 75% lower accident rate. This is the main, and most significant, benefit of passing the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test.

Once drivers have passed the Test, services available to Members include motor insurance, through the IAM Select Insurance scheme. There are also special offers such as the IAM Car Purchase Plan, breakdown and recovery insurance, an IAM credit card, personal loans, car hire. Members also receive a copy of the colour magazine 'Advanced Driving', published three times a year, which has interesting features on driving and other topics, as well as News from the Groups.

Membership of the Institute currently stands at over 110,000. Nearly 10,000 people successfully take the Advanced Driving/Motorcycling Test every year.

There are also 200 local Groups in the UK who provide a course of preparation, events for their Members, and promote the Institute in their locality, offering the Skill for Life Full Driving/Motorcycling Programme.

The Institute has, since it was founded more than forty years ago, given hundreds of thousands of motorists and motorcyclists the opportunity to check whether they have the qualities to be better and safer drivers. This has made them more aware, helping them to deal with increasingly difficult situations on today's roads, as well as giving extra protection to themselves and to their passengers, with the added touch of enjoying their driving/riding more.

Welcome to New Associates

New Car

Steven Hilton

Ray Martindale

Margaret Small

New Bike

Stuart Kaddick

Keith Kellett

Congratulations to New Members

Car

Bill Bradbury

Mary Finch

Susan Seddon

Bike

Tony Kerr

Alan Walker

IAM LEADS NEW MOVE TO REDUCE YOUNG LIVES LOST TO “DAYLIGHT ROBBERY”

Children dying in the road crashes that follow the clocks going back every October are at the centre of a new move by road safety campaigners to change the daylight regime.

Concerns of IAM Council member and broadcaster Nick Ross have prompted a letter from safety campaigners seeking a commitment to review the policy.

Ross argues that tourism, leisure and sporting organisations generally support a move to

Single/Double Summer time, but the main benefit will be fewer child casualties on dark roads. Now campaigners are calling on politicians in all the main UK parties to change the current regime, because there are more accidents in the afternoon rush hour than in the morning.

"Motorists are tired after a day's work and concentration levels are lower," said Mr Ross.

"We expect politicians to take responsibility for the current needless loss of young lives. Doing nothing is not an option." "Given the hysteria over false health scares like MMR it is little less than sensational humbug that we deliberately kill roughly 100 children every year. Let's hope that this year is the last that we put the clocks back in this way."

The move would also put the UK into the central European Time Zone. Although there may be more casualties in the morning during the winter, these would be outweighed by the reduction in casualties due to an extra hour of daylight in the evening, so producing a net reduction. Estimates vary, but numerous reports have looked at the extent of the casualties. In 2002, pedestrian deaths and serious injuries rose from 759 in October to 851 in November.

A letter from IAM Chief Executive Christopher Bullock to politicians calling for a change was supported by Brake, PACTS, RAC Foundation, RoSPA, and Transport for London. (a copy can be downloaded from the IAM website)

News Release Number 17/04

Issued: 31 October 2004

New IAM Publications

In case you have not heard, IAM HQ have been very busy of late revising the documentation available to Groups. The Group Handbook has been revised and is available as both an electronic and hard-copy. A guide to 'Associate Recruitment' has been prepared and your committee is arranging for copies to be made available to all members who want them.

On the training a guide to Observer Qualification and an Observer Training Manual have been published, again copies have been ordered for Wigan Observers. These will sit alongside the existing Wigan Group Observer Guide.

Finally there is a guide to Group Organised Motorcycle Rides. This advocates the use of a Lead-Marker-Tail system.

Record Breakers Proudly Presents

World Record for the Largest Gathering of Santas on Bikes



Record Breakers are urgently seeking 10,000 fun bikers to bring home the World Record for the Largest Gathering of Santas on Bikes, currently held by Portugal at 5,443 Santa's. The record has been challenged in the UK once before but fell short, that was before we were beaten in Euro 2004.

The amazing spectacle will be held on December 5th 2004 at Silverstone Race Circuit and will be televised and featured in The Sun, Motor Cycle News and many other national media publications.

The World Record attempt is supporting childrens charity; Antics, which supports children that have been affected by cancer. We want to give these children a christmas that they will never forget and only you bikers can make this possible. Many of these children will be invited to attend this World Record challenge.

The first 3000 bikers will receive a luxury Santa suit. All bikers will also receive a DVD and personalised World Record certificate. It's free to enter in return for a some sponsorship. So if you want to be a record breaker this christmas and also do something for charity please call today.

For More Details: Telephone = 0870 224 2245
Email Contact 1 = moreinfo@recordbreakers.co.uk
Website = <http://www.recordbreakers.co.uk>

IAM National Conference

You will by now have read the reports from the national conference in the IAM's magazine, 'Advanced Driving'. Wigan Group were represented by Tony Rigby and myself, I would like to say that the event was very worthwhile particularly in giving members from across the country the opportunity to meet and exchange views. It is somehow a relief to find that other Groups having similar successes and are facing similar problems to ourselves.



Mike

WAKE UP TO MOTORWAY FATIGUE

HALF OF BRITAIN'S DRIVERS RISK DOZING OFF AT THE WHEEL

More than 50 per cent of Britain's motorists habitually drive for more than two hours on long motorway journeys without taking a break – and half of those, a staggering 25 per cent of all drivers never stop for a break during motorway journeys lasting four hours or longer.

These are the shocking findings of a nationwide survey undertaken by the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) and Auto Express magazine as part of National Motorway Month. The survey, conducted by NOP World Automotive, also reveals that a third of drivers admit to having driven continuously for four hours or more without a rest, on at least one occasion. Company car drivers generally continue for longer periods without a break than drivers of privately owned vehicles, while female drivers tend to stop more frequently than their male counterparts.

Motorists who drive cars registered since September last year are more liable to plough on without stopping, as are those who drive a roadster, coupé or convertible. When it comes to age, drivers in the 25-34 age group are the worst offenders. The results show that many drivers are either unaware of or ignoring official advice from the Department for Transport to take a 15-minute break every two hours on a long journey. The DfT says more than one-fifth of motorway collisions are caused by drivers falling asleep at the wheel and up to one in ten crashes on all of Britain's roads – around 23,000 a year – are also linked to fatigue. The IAM's Chief Examiner, Bryan Lunn, commented: "Driver fatigue can easily set in on a long motorway journey, even if the driver begins the journey feeling fresh and alert. The problem can be particularly acute during the summer, when holiday traffic is at its peak and people are eager to reach distant destinations as soon as possible. "Added to that," Lunn continued, "some medicines such as hay fever tablets may cause or increase drowsiness. Anyone taking such medication should check the precautions that are printed on the pack."

The IAM offers the following tips to reduce the effects of tiredness on a long motorway journey:

- Plan in advance so that you can stop for a 15-minute break every two hours.
- Try to avoid making long trips between midnight and 6am, when natural alertness is low.
- Never start a journey if you are already feeling tired.
- If you start to feel sleepy, find a safe place to stop (not on the hard shoulder), take a short nap and resume your journey 15-20 minutes later. If necessary, drink strong coffee or a high energy drink or take a caffeine tablet before setting off again.
- Don't rely on opening the window or turning up the radio – these will do little to stop you falling asleep at the wheel.
- David Johns, editor in chief of Auto Express magazine, said: "The problem of driver fatigue could also be alleviated by providing more rest areas on motorways. Our survey shows that almost two-thirds of drivers would like to see more places where they can pull in and take a break. Everyone deserves the chance to stop without paying service station prices for a coffee. The picnic-style areas that are positioned frequently along French motorways are an ideal example, and we would warmly welcome the introduction of such facilities."

WINTER DRIVING

Driving in adverse winter conditions is more difficult if you and your car aren't properly prepared. By following these simple guidelines from the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) you will be safer and ready to deal with winter driving problems.

- **Is your journey really necessary?** If it is, plan it and give yourself plenty of time. Tell someone your intended route and how long you think it's going to take. Listen to the radio for details about road and weather conditions.
- **Clean the windscreen and windows** using a demisting preparation. Check that screen washers are not blocked and that the screen washer bottle is topped up and has a winter additive to stop it freezing. Check that the windscreen wipers are in good condition and work effectively.
- **Ensure that all lights, brake lights, indicators are working properly** and the lenses are clean.
- **Ensure that the tyres are in good condition** and are properly inflated.
Carry the following in your vehicle:- Warning triangle. Hands free mobile phone. Warm coat. First aid kit. Good torch. Seat belt cutter. Fire extinguisher. Travel rug. Tow rope. Bottled drinking water. Recovery service contact number. Good map. Pen and paper. Adverse weather and road conditions bring an increased risk of skidding. A skid does not just happen - it is almost always caused by the driver's actions.
- **Keep your speed down** and increase your safety gaps when the road is wet or icy.
- Braking, steering, acceleration, decelerating and gear changing must be done gently and gradually.
- If a skid occurs, no matter how strong the temptation, do not brake! Lose speed by gently easing the pressure on the accelerator pedal and, if appropriate, de-clutch.

From IAM *Fact Sheet 09/001*

A parable for our time !

A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband one morning. Suddenly her husband burst into the kitchen. "Careful...CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my GOD! You're cooking too many at once. Too MANY! Turn them over. Turn them over NOW! We need more butter. Oh my GOD! Where are we going to get more BUTTER!?"

Great! Now they're going to STICK! Careful...CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You never listen to me when you're cooking! NEVER! Turn them over! Hurry UP! Are you crazy? Have you lost your MIND? Don't forget to salt them. You KNOW you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. The SALT! Use the SALT!"

His wife just stared at him. "What in the hell is the matter with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?" The husband calmly replied, "I wanted to show you what it feels like to have you sitting next to me when I'm driving."

Jambusters to cut M-Way misery

THE jambusters are on the way to make life easier for drivers on the north west's congested motorways. Work has started on a £5m traffic control centre alongside the M6 at Newton-le-Willows.

It will monitor traffic conditions across Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cumbria. And it will be the base for 300 staff who will man the centre and patrol the region's motorways. They will help the police manage traffic incidents, deploying new Highways Agency traffic officers who will start to patrol our motorways from autumn next year

Transport Minister David Jamieson said: "*Highways Agency traffic officers will play a key role in the government's plans to ease congestion on the motorway network when they are introduced in the north west and the rest of the country next year. Even minor accidents can cause long tailbacks so rapid clearance of incidents will mean that we can keep traffic moving. The Highways Agency is making a breakthrough in traffic management by introducing these highly trained traffic officers, who will work alongside the police, but whose prime responsibility is to manage incidents and keep traffic moving. I look forward to the Highways Agency traffic officers taking to the road in the north west from autumn 2005 and the benefit this will bring to motorists.*"

The Newton-le-Willows headquarters will be one of seven new Highways Agency regional control centres to be built across the country. Traffic officers will also be stationed at Knutsford, Samlesbury, near Preston, and Milnrow, near Rochdale, to ensure a quick response to incidents across the motorway network in the region. Eventually there will be 300 on-road and control room staff operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They will help police with motorway accidents, removing damaged and abandoned vehicles and clearing debris from the road.

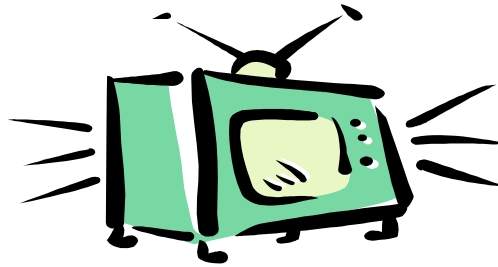
Highways Agency project manager David Stones said: "*This initiative means that more trained people will be on the roads, ready to help drivers.*"

From the Manchester Evening News. Tuesday, 26th October 2004

Of course, if everyone drove a little more considerately, or rode motorbikes, traffic jams would be more of a rarity.

K.

Videos



You know when people ask, “Have you seen that film?” The reply is often “No! but I’ve read the book!” Well now you can ALL read the book AND see the film.

Of course I’m talking about PYADT (Pass Your Advanced Driving Test), PYAMT (Pass Your Advanced Motorcycle Test) Roadcraft and other videos. As part of your course either past or present you should have read one of the above publications. The group also has access to a range of excellent videos on driving and riding produced by a variety of motoring organisations. They are a really good way showing how advanced driving / riding should be done and are another way of getting the message across... all from the comfort of your armchair. You can even watch them whilst on your mobile phone or enjoying a cup/glass of the amber nectar!

Titles and subjects are as follows :

TITLE	CONTENT	PRODUCED BY
Roadcraft	Police drivers at Hendon learning the SYSTEM	Police
Roadsense	Hazard perception	Driving Standards Agency
What If (car)	Hazard perception for cars	Driving Standards Agency
What If (biking)	Hazard perception for bikes	Driving Standards Agency
Reversing	Reversing, steering and manoeuvres including 3 point turn	BARSA Blackburn Area Road Safety Association
Demonstration Drive	Demonstration drive of using the system and giving commentary	Wigan Advanced Motorists
Demonstration	IAM groups video on the system	Westmorland IAM
Demonstration Drive	Demo drive of police driving	Lincolnshire Police
Motorcycling	Biking and use of the system	Thames Valley Police Motorcyclists
Motorcycling	Biking and the system	Kent Constabulary
On The Level	Road Safety at Automatic Level Crossings	Network Rail
Think Ahead	Advice for Large Goods Vehicle, Drivers	RMC / DAF

Videos can be borrowed for a two-week period and there is no cost involved.

The Lord of the Rings... sorry The Lord of the Videos is.... Arthur Fletcher.

If you want make use of videos see Arthur or Gary Whittaker on a Sunday and they will arrange the loan for you.

Wigan Group activity and events diary

Date	Event (General social functions shown in bold)	Contact
Nov 7 th	NEC bike show	Martin Duckworth
Nov 9 th	To be confirmed	Mike Smalley
Nov 16 th	Open Evening at Priory Wood	Les Stretton
Dec 14 th	Amir's Annual Christmas Quiz, all welcome	Les Stretton
Dec 14 th	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Jan 11 th	A visit to Bolton Mountain Rescue	Gary Whittaker
Feb 8 th	Social Evening at The Priory Wood	Les Stretton
Feb 22 nd	Committee Meeting	Mike Smalley
Mar 8 th	Wigan Group AGM	Les Stretton

Ear protection

Following the publication on hearing protection in last Newsletter I have been asked about moulded ear-plugs. By coincidence we received the following note from 'Ultimate Ear Protection'. If you are interested please visit their web-site.

We would like to introduce our company "Ultimate Ear Protection" if you haven't already heard about us before from shows, meetings etc. Ultimate specialise in hearing protection and communication systems. Ultimate has researched and designed custom made hearing protection which we manufacture specifically for the motorcycle industry. We would be very interested in providing your members with our product as we have done a lot of work with IAM groups already and we are looking to expand on this. Please look at our bike section on our web site www.ultimateear.com to look at the products we offer.